

COUNTRY <b>GERMANY</b>	REPORT NO. <b>E-56B-B-4959A</b>	(LEAVE BLANK)
<b>AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT</b>		
SUBJECT <b>MVD Penal Camps in the IRKUTSK Area</b>		
AREA REPORTED ON <b>IRKUTSK, USSR</b>	FROM (Agency) <b>7050 AISW (USAF)</b>	
DATE OF REPORT <b>11 Feb 54</b>	DATE OF INFORMATION <b>Sep 49 to May 53</b>	EVALUATION <b>F-6</b>
PREPARED BY (Officer) <b>HALBERT H. ACKER, Lt. Col., USAF</b>	SOURCE <b>-</b>	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)		
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112-Part II.)		
<p><b>I. PREAMBLE:</b></p> <p>SOURCE was interned in Penal Camp # 09 in the area of IRKUTSK (5217 N / 10418 E) from Sept 49 till May 53. She had been sentenced to 10 years prison-ship because she had been living with a family with partisan contacts in the former East Prussian area. During her internment she worked as a lumberjack in forests. She did not come into contact with Russian civilians and had only few contacts with the other inmates because it was forbidden for the prisoners to talk among each other. SOURCE speaks Russian. In May 53, SOURCE was transferred to prison in TAPIAU (formerly East Prussia - coordinates unknown)1</p> <p><b>II. MVD PENAL CAMPS IN THE IRKUTSK AREA:</b></p> <p>SOURCE's camp was located approximately 100-km south-east of IRKUTSK. SOURCE was never in this town but traveled through it on her way home in May 53. She was unable to locate the camp or the approximate area since she did not observe any landmarks. The area was woody and SOURCE heard only that it was not too far away from the BAYKAL Lake.</p> <p>The camp had a capacity of 800 prisoners, all female. It consisted of single-story wooden barracks, surrounded by barbed wire. Guards were of the MVD, the unit did not rotate. All prisoners worked, most of them on wood cutting, some on the constr of a railroad line, which SOURCE did not see and of which she did not hear any details. Health of the inmates was reported as fair, there were no epidemics. Food was sufficient to maintain life. The working norms were very high for women. SOURCE reported that she had to cut 68 cubic meters of lumber during her 11 hour work period and 75 cubic meters in winter. Nine women were killed while SOURCE was interned here, two were shot by guards because they left their immediate work site, the others were hit by falling timber. Camp had no mail contact with outside or foreign countries. SOURCE reported that the inmates were Germans (9), Koreans (12), Latvians (50), Estonians (20), Lithuanians (80), Japanese (3) with the remaining Russians, Ukrainians and Poles. All inmates had been sentenced from 10 years up for political reasons.</p> <p><b>KOREANS:</b> Origin unknown, all arrested in 1947/48 by Russians, mostly for alleged espionage. All around 20 to 26 years old, all high school students.</p> <p><b>LITHUANIANS:</b> All were young girls, all high school students. Families also deported, distributed over the USSR. The same info pertains to <b>ESTONIANS, LATVIANS.</b></p> <p><b>RUSSIANS, POLES, UKRAINIANS:</b> Most of these women were interned because of having worked for the Germans during the last war. Some were plain political prisoners, charged with espionage, sabotage, counter-revolutionary activities. SOURCE</p> <p><b>None</b> INCLS.</p>		
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reported that most of them were also women with high school education.

JAPANESE: The 3 Japanese women had allegedly been arrested at an unknown place by Russians in 1946. SOURCE did not have contact with them on account of language difficulties and because of their withdrawn behavior.

SOURCE was unable to recall any names of prisoners or of guards. She did not obtain any info on camp administration.

GERMANS: All German women were from the former East Prussia and from the Soviet Zone of Occupation. No names recalled. They had all been sentenced for political reasons. Most of them were married and had no info on the whereabouts of their husbands.

The following info was obtained from a Lithuanian girl, who had once been to TAYSHET (5555 N / 9602 E) for unknown reasons. She told SOURCE that a male penal camp is located in this town with approximately 700 inmates, all of them British, American and French. These prisoners did not work. The woman was unable to learn where these men had been taken prisoner and for what reasons.

The following penal camps were all located in the close vicinity of SOURCE's camp. SOURCE heard of them during work, when she came into contact with their inmates. Exact locations could not be pinpointed.

Camp # 26: male, approximately 800 inmates, mostly Koreans, Lithuanians and Russians, worked on railroad line constr.

Camp # 44: female, 700 inmates, approximately same set-up as SOURCE's camp. Inmates of same nationalities. Worked in forest.

Camp # 15: male. All inmates had more than 25 years as sentences, also for political reasons. SOURCE often saw them being led to work, always 5 men chained together. They worked on railroad line constr, according to other prisoners of SOURCE's camp.

SOURCE reported that treatment of the prisoners was very strict during the years 1949 till 1952. A sudden change to the better occurred in Summer 1952. The prisoners were not required to wear the black camp clothes any more; food and treatment by guards became better.

Concerning the amnesty act of March 1953 SOURCE reported that all political prisoners with sentences of up to 5 years were dismissed and she also heard that all criminal prisoners of other camps were also discharged. She learned this from own observations she made when she was discharged. The same railroad trains were used to transport both types of prisoners westward.

SOURCE cannot furnish names of any other potential women SOURCES. According to what SOURCE heard, political prisoners and criminals were imprisoned together, without any distinction. Just prior to SOURCE's imprisonment, in 1947 and 1948, SOURCE heard that political prisoners were separated from criminals and placed in different camps. SOURCE personally was never imprisoned with criminal prisoners.

*for Francis Ryan Capt USAF*  
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